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The Organizability of Labor. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science. By William O. Weyforth, Ph.D., Instructor in Economics in Western Reserve University. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1917.

The ordinary man who hears so much about trade unionism is surprised when he learns that only five and one-half per cent of the industrial population of this country belongs to trade unions and that only about eighteen per cent of the prospective candidates for labor organizations are actually organized. This naturally suggests the question why is it that a greater number of workers are not organized after all those years of struggle? A rather complete answer to this question will be found in Dr. Weyforth's excellent monograph. Before describing the obstacles in the way of the extension of labor organizations, the writer describes the methods adopted by labor organizations for the purpose of extending their membership. The simplest method of bringing men into the union is the direct appeal of the labor organizer. This is generally followed by a strike, when the employer refuses to grant the demands of the newly formed union. In order to strengthen further their organization, the trade unionists try to exclude non-union men from employment by the use of closed shop agreements.

According to Dr. Weyforth it is much easier to induce men to join the union than to have them retain their membership in it; hence it is, he claims, that the trade unions establish benefit systems. These give the members an additional interest in their union and gives the union a greater amount of control over them.

Poor leadership, dishonest local officials, reckless and unnecessary strikes, according to the writer have been a great source of weakness in the labor movement and have lead to the disruption of many unions.

The difficulties of getting men to join labor organizations are attributable both to the workers themselves and the character of the industry in which they are engaged. It is almost impossible to organize negro workers. The same is true of women workers. There are serious difficulties in the way of organizing recent immigrants, but Dr. Weyforth does not believe that they are insurmountable. It is exceedingly difficult to organize workers in small shops on account of the absence of that class conscious

spirit which is created by contact with others in the same station and with the same grievances. The great corporations like the American Paper Company, the American Tobacco Company and the United States Steel Corporation, have placed insuperable barriers in the way of labor organizations. Their great financial resources, their control of a large number of plants, their opportunities for discrimination, have enabled them to stamp out labor organizations from their industries.

Contemporary Theories of Unemployment and Unemployment Relief, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. By Frederick C. Mills, Ph.D. New York: Columbia University, 1917.

This monograph deals with three phases of the unemployment problem in England and the United States. The first chapter reviews briefly the various remedies for unemployment which have been tried in England from the sixteenth century to the present time. This chapter also contains a short discussion of the opinions of the classical economists on unemployment and unemployment relief, which logically belongs to the second chapter. The author's treatment of the British Poor Law is too brief to give the reader a clear idea of the forces leading to the establishment of this important institution. He has apparently studied it as an isolated phenomenon having no relation to social conditions or economic theory.

In the second chapter the writer reviews the current "Orthodox" theories in regard to unemployment in England. These are lack of industrial quality, industrial fluctuations, reserves of labor and personal faults. The various remedies suggested by "orthodox theorists" are also dealt with in this chapter, namely industrial education, dovetailing of seasonal industries, carrying on special government work in dull seasons, employment exchanges from which employers should be compelled to secure their workers, farm colonies for the unemployable and unemployment insurance. This chapter is the most instructive of the whole book. It gives one a clear concept of the amount of careful thought which has been devoted to the unemployment problem in England during the last quarter of a century.

Chapters three and four are devoted to American unemploy-